



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 879

LCO No. 3305

03305_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT AND REORGANIZATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study the Department of Children and Families. The task force shall
3 (1) evaluate the department's current policies, practices and
4 procedures including, but not limited to, whether the Commissioner of
5 Children and Families may suspend a child's visitation with his or her
6 parent before an evidentiary hearing has occurred on the issue of
7 visitation; (2) consider possible changes in the structure and
8 organization of the department, including whether any functions of
9 the department should be transferred to other departments or
10 agencies; (3) assess whether the department should (A) consider using
11 animal-assisted therapies in child abuse and neglect prevention and
12 intervention activities, (B) develop a series of questions related to
13 animal treatment to be used during existing screening, intake,
14 investigation and risk and safety procedures, and (C) engage in cross-
15 reporting of child abuse and neglect, elder abuse and neglect and
16 animal abuse and neglect with the Department of Social Services and

17 municipal and state animal control officers; and (4) recommend any
18 changes in the areas described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of
19 this subsection, including the costs associated with each change, a time
20 frame for implementation and any statutory changes necessary to
21 effectuate such recommendations.

22 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

23 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

24 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

25 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
26 Representatives;

27 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

28 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
29 Representatives; and

30 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

31 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
32 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
33 of the General Assembly.

34 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
35 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
36 filled by the appointing authority.

37 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
38 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
39 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
40 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no
41 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

42 (f) The administrative staff of the select committee of the General
43 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall serve

44 as administrative staff of the task force.

45 (g) Not later than January 1, 2010, the task force shall submit a
46 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
47 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
48 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
49 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
50 submits such report or January 1, 2010, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require a study of issues concerning oversight and reorganization of the Department of Children and Families.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]